



## Crime Prevention News

January—February 2016



### **New Year's Message from Vice President for Public Safety** **James F. McShane**

I would like to wish each of you a healthy and prosperous New Year and welcome you back to campus for the Spring Semester. In 2015, New York City once again enjoyed an overall decrease in major crime. Like New York City, statistically Columbia University continues to be one of the safest major universities in the country, due in large part to the men and women of the Department of Public Safety who work tirelessly to prevent crime on campus and are relentless in investigating any crimes that do occur. Credit also needs to go to the men and women of our local police precincts, the 26<sup>th</sup> and 33<sup>rd</sup> Precincts. Day in and day out, these officers provide a reassuring presence as they patrol the Morningside and Washington Heights areas. Finally, credit must also go to you, the members of the Columbia Community. Over the past year, many of you have been instrumental in helping to prevent crime on campus and in identifying suspects when crimes have been committed. It is this willingness to be a part of the solution that has been so critical to our shared success.

As we begin 2016, I would like to ask all of you to continue your diligence and to make a concerted effort to eliminate opportunities for criminal activity by keeping a close watch on your property. During the past year, larcenies, particularly thefts of unattended property, accounted for an exceedingly high percentage of all reported crime on our campuses. You can help to reduce these numbers! Don't leave your possessions unattended in libraries or other public spaces. This is an invitation to theft. Also, please let us know whenever you observe suspicious activity and be aware of your surroundings, especially when talking or texting on a cell phone. For more advice on staying safe, I encourage you to visit the Crime Prevention Tips link on the NYPD website: [www.nyc.gov/nypd](http://www.nyc.gov/nypd) You can also visit our website at [publicsafety.columbia.edu](http://publicsafety.columbia.edu) or call our Crime Prevention office at **212-854-8513** for additional information on crime prevention programs geared specifically to the Columbia community.



### **Have YOU Programmed CU Public Safety's Phone number** **in your Cell Phone or Desk Phone?**

CU Public Safety has two 24 hour locations servicing both the Morningside, Manhattanville, and Medical Center communities should you need to report suspicious persons or activity, a fire, chemical spills, or any emergencies. The average cell phone can program over a thousand numbers, why not program our number in your device?

**the Morningside / Manhattanville campuses: Emergencies 212-854-5555**

**the Medical Center campus: Emergencies 212-305-7979**

CU Public Safety Emergency Call Boxes are set up both on and off campus at all three campus communities to report any emergencies. To view a list of the Emergency Call Boxes near you, please visit the Public Safety website [publicsafety.columbia.edu](http://publicsafety.columbia.edu)



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**NYC Vision Zero Action Plan**

According to the New York City Department of Traffic, approximately 4,000 New Yorkers are seriously injured and more than 250 are killed each year in traffic crashes. Being struck by a vehicle is the leading cause of injury-related death for children under 14, and the second leading cause for seniors. On average, vehicles seriously injure or kill a New Yorker every two hours. The City of New York will no longer regard traffic crashes as mere "accidents," but rather as preventable incidents that can be systematically addressed. No level of fatality on city streets is inevitable or acceptable. The Vision Zero Action Plan is the City's foundation for ending traffic deaths and injuries on our streets. With over 6,000 miles of city streets, there is no shortage of opportunities to drive in New York City. It is important to know that dangerous driver choices are the primary cause or a contributing factor in 70% of pedestrian fatalities. This means that you must be cautious and mindful when driving at all times: - [www.nyc.gov/visionzero](http://www.nyc.gov/visionzero)

- **PAUSE AND WAIT BEFORE YOU TURN**—Turn slowly and expect people in the crosswalk every time. Left turns severely injure three times as many pedestrians as right turns—after you find a break in oncoming traffic, there is still likely to be someone in the crosswalk where you are.
- **SLOW IT DOWN- speed limits are changing** If you hit someone at 30 mph, you are twice as likely to kill them than if you hit them at 25 mph. This is why the speed limit in New York City was reduced to 25 mph in November of 2014.
- **EYES ON THE ROAD**- Reaching for, reading, dialing or typing on cell phones can take your mind off driving, eyes off the road and hands off the wheel.

For more information about driving safely, click on the following links below:

**Cell phone use and texting** Check out the "It Can Wait" campaign to help curb texting and cell phone use while driving.

**Distracted Driving, Talking & Texting** Safe NY is a great resource for safety tips and the State's mobile phone and portable electronic device laws.



**Now You See it Now You Don't**

**Get Your Electronics Marked through the NYPD "Blue Light" Program**



The NYPD **Blue Light** program is part of the CU Public Safety crime prevention program and is very effective for small electronics like cell phones, tablets, cameras, etc. Property marked with the NYPD **Blue Light** program is registered with the NYPD and CU Public Safety nationwide. Designed to discourage theft as well as a great Lost and Found tool, permanent invisible ink is used to mark electronics with a unique police ID number which can be seen under a special police light. Similar to the Operation ID program, anyone in possession of stolen registered property can be arrested for possession of stolen property. Best of all this program is also FREE!

How can you set up an appointment? Just go to the Public Safety website under crime prevention and click on the engraving request link or click here: [publicsafety.columbia.edu](http://publicsafety.columbia.edu)

